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ABSTRACT

The statewide higher education enrollment projections presented in this document are advanced as planning guidelines based on the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia's best estimate of future trends and conditions. Tables presented offer information concerning (1) projected college enrollments (resident degree credit) to 1982 for Virginia (related to 18-21 year-old population); (2) projected college enrollments (resident degree credit) to 1982 for Virginia (related to 18-24 year-old population); (3) distribution of Virginia residents in College, 1970-1982; and (4) projected enrollment for Virginia's institutions of higher education, 1970-1982. (HS)

1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980

HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT AND PROJECTED ENROLLMENT 1960 - 1982

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
10th Floor, Life of Virginia Building, 911 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
October, 1972

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HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT
AND
PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

1960 - 1982

INTRODUCTION

The statewide higher education enrollment projections presented in this document are advanced as planning guidelines based on the State Council's best estimate of future trends and conditions. Planning is a continuous process and enrollment projections will require periodic review and updating as each year new social and demographic changes require additional study. It should also be understood that these projections are enrollment trends and should be considered as such rather than being construed as actual absolute numbers.

The projections presented in this document represent an updating of the statewide enrollment projections made in 1965 by the Higher Education Study Commission, and also those incorporated in The Virginia Plan for Higher Education, published by the State Council in December, 1967. The Higher Education Study Commission presented four series of enrollment projections in its 1965 Staff Report #2, Statewide Pattern of Higher Education in Virginia, with Series 4 being the most optimistic. The enrollments reached in 1970 slightly exceeded those predicted by the Series 4 enrollment projections.

The Virginia Plan presented statewide enrollment projections for 1972 consistent with Series 4 of the Study Commission. Whereas the statewide totals for all sectors have proven to be extremely accurate for the 1967-72 period, when the projections presented in The Virginia Plan are categorized into state-controlled four-year, state-controlled two-year, and private college enrollments, three noteworthy trends are apparent. The four-year state-controlled segment has not achieved the enrollment growth predicted. The two-year public segment has, however, more than made up the difference, growing at a much faster rate than predicted. The result has been that, to date, the state-controlled institutions have exceeded the enrollments projected by The Virginia Plan by about 5 percent. The private colleges and universities in Virginia, however, will reach an enrollment by Fall 1972 which is about 6,000 students, or 18 percent, below that originally predicted in 1967.

In addition, it should be noted that data from the 1970 Census indicate that the original projections of the Higher Education Study Commission for 18-21 year-old population for the late 1970's and 1980 were approximately 7 percent lower than is now projected based on the more recent data. Since the population base used to project enrollments is now known to be larger, it is to be expected that the enrollments now projected for the late 1970's will be greater than those originally set forth.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECTIONS

A series of three projections are presented in the following pages. Two of these are based on differing sets of assumptions. The third projects Virginia's achieving the national level of the college-going rates of its citizens by the 1980's. This third series is presented as a goal statement for Virginia and projects the higher education opportunities required if Virginia were to achieve parity with what is projected for the entire nation within the time frame being considered.

The basic data utilized to project college enrollment were 18-21 and 18-24 year-old populations for Virginia. Projections of these population groups were developed from the second count of the 1970 Census.

The relationship between total enrollment and the 18-21 and 18-24 year-old population was utilized to project college enrollment in Virginia. This is an accepted technique where age distribution of college enrollment is not precisely known. This technique recognizes that a wide range of ages is represented in student population and that college enrollment consists of more than just those whose ages fall between 18 to 21 or even 18 to 24. The term "college age" is difficult to define and to be inclusive would include all individuals over the age of 17. Nevertheless, a majority of college students come from the 18-21 age group--approximately 60 percent in 1970, according to the Department of Commerce. That Agency also estimated that 78 percent of college enrollment in the United States was made up of 18 to 24 year olds in 1970. Accordingly, the 18-21 and 18-24 year-old age groups have been used to represent the "pool" of individuals from which the colleges will draw their students. Despite objections which may logically be made to the use of these groups in studies of college enrollment, they provide a satisfactory base for most such studies. To extend the age limits of the base group would mean the inclusion of population strata of which only a small portion attend college. For example, the group aged 22-24 accounted for over 18 percent of college students in 1970, but only 13 percent of the individuals aged 22-24 were in college during the same year. The evidence does, however, indicate that the participation of older age groups in college is increasing. For this reason, projections for certain future years have been made based on population projections and college-going rates for four separate age groups between the ages of 18 and 34. Projected college-going rates for each of these Virginia age groups were based on national estimates. The enrollment projections developed by this second method can be compared to estimates for the same years using only the 18-21 and 18-24 year-old age groups as population pools. Comparisons indicate that both methods yield essentially the same results.

ASSUMPTIONS UPON WHICH PROJECTIONS ARE BASED

The general assumptions made in each of the first two sets of projections are as follows:

Series 1 Projections--This series assumes that between 1970 and 1980 the college-age population enrolled in college will increase at an average annual rate equal to 75 percent of the rate experienced between 1960 and 1970. It further assumes that the major portion of the increase (89 percent) in the college-going rate will be experienced between 1970 and 1976, after which it will increase but at a decreasing rate. Enrollment of Virginia residents in higher education would increase by 32.2 percent from 1972 to 1982 under this series. The more specific assumptions which underlie this general assumption are detailed on pages 10 and 11 of this report. The reader is encouraged to refer to these for a more complete description of the basis upon which the projections were made.

Series 2 Projections--This series assumes that between 1970 and 1980 the percentage of Virginia's college-age population enrolled in college will increase at an average annual rate equal to 95 percent of the rate experienced between 1960 and 1970. It further assumes that the major portion of the increase (84 percent) in the college-going rate will be experienced between 1970 and 1976, after which it will increase but at a decreasing rate. Enrollment of Virginia residents in higher education would increase by 42.1 percent from 1972 to 1982 under this series. The more specific assumptions which underlie this general assumption are detailed on page 12 of this report. The reader is encouraged to refer to these for a more complete description of the basis upon which the projections were made.

Goal Projections (Series 3)--Goal projections are presented as a definition of the enrollments which would occur if Virginia were to reach parity with projected national college-going rates by the 1980's. Goal projections are presented for certain selected years only, and have been developed solely from national rates applied to Virginia's college-age population. Virginia has consistently lagged behind the national average in its college-going rate. Three significant factors related to this lag have been that the tuition structure in Virginia is among the highest in the region and the nation; Virginia provides only a limited amount of student financial aid for those students from low income families; and the holding power of Virginia's secondary schools has not equaled the national level. Despite the fact that higher education in Virginia experienced previously unparalleled growth during the decade of the Sixties, in 1970 Virginia was still well behind the nation in its college-going rate. No specific assumptions are presented for these goal projections. In light of Virginia's

present position, it would be necessary to significantly ameliorate the conditions mentioned previously and to make an increased statewide commitment of resources if this goal were to be achieved.

PROJECTED ENROLLMENTS

Table 1 -- PROJECTED COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS (RESIDENT DEGREE CREDIT) TO 1982 FOR VIRGINIA (RELATED TO 18-21 YEAR-OLD POPULATION)

Fall of Year	18-21 Year-Old Population	Projected Virginia Residents in College (Head-count Enrollment)					
		Series 1		Series 2		Goal Projections	
		Enroll. as a Percent of 18-21 Pop.	Enrollment	Enroll. as a Percent of 18-21 Pop.	Enrollment	Enroll. as a Percent of 18-21 Pop.	Enrollment
1960	244,677	25.7	62,900	25.7	62,900	25.7	62,900
1965	271,978	33.6	91,498	33.6	91,498	33.6	91,498
1970	325,400	45.6	148,323	45.6	148,323	45.6	148,323
1971	330,000	48.7	160,830	48.7	160,830	48.7	160,830
1972	334,300	52.7	176,044	52.7	176,044	--	--
1973	347,700	54.5	189,548	54.5	189,548	--	--
1974	363,600	56.0	203,616	56.0	203,616	--	--
1975	371,600	57.3	212,927	57.3	212,969	60.1	223,332
1976	380,900	58.4	222,446	58.8	223,942	--	--
1977	385,800	59.2	228,393	60.7	234,311	--	--
1978	391,500	59.7	233,726	61.9	242,448	--	--
1979	392,800	59.9	235,287	62.8	246,667	--	--
1980	390,900	60.0	234,540	63.6	248,660	66.2	258,776
1981	390,400	60.2	235,021	64.3	251,027	--	--
1982	385,400	60.4	232,782	64.9	250,125	68.6	264,384

Table 2 -- PROJECTED COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS (RESIDENT DEGREE CREDIT) TO 1982 FOR VIRGINIA (RELATED TO 18-24 YEAR-OLD POPULATION)

Fall of Year	18-24 Year-Old Population	Projected Virginia Residents in College (Head-count Enrollment)					
		Series 1		Series 2		Goal Projections	
		Enroll. as a Percent of 18-24 Pop.	Enrollment	Enroll. as a Percent of 18-24 Pop.	Enrollment	Enroll. as a Percent of 18-24 Pop.	Enrollment
1960	Not Available	--	62,900	--	62,900	--	62,900
1965	Not Available	--	91,498	--	91,498	--	91,498
1970	561,400	26.4	148,323	26.4	148,323	26.4	148,323
1971	584,300	27.5	160,830	27.5	160,830	27.5	160,830
1972	588,400	29.9	176,044	29.9	176,044	--	--
1973	594,100	31.9	189,548	31.9	189,548	--	--
1974	606,400	33.6	203,616	33.6	203,616	--	--
1975	617,300	34.5	212,927	34.5	212,969	36.2	223,332
1976	636,200	35.0	222,446	35.2	223,942	--	--
1977	654,500	34.9	228,393	35.8	234,311	--	--
1978	667,900	35.0	233,726	36.3	242,448	--	--
1979	675,800	34.8	235,287	36.5	246,667	--	--
1980	679,400	34.5	234,540	36.6	248,660	38.1	258,776
1981	681,200	34.5	235,021	36.9	251,027	--	--
1982	681,700	34.2	232,782	36.7	250,125	38.8	264,384

The enrollment projections presented in tables 1 and 2 are for Virginia residents attending college. Once these had been estimated, it was necessary to distribute those students to the various segments which provide them with higher education services. It was necessary to estimate those going out-of-state to college, those attending private Virginia institutions, and those attending Virginia's state-controlled colleges and universities. In

arriving at such estimates, assumptions were made relative to out-of-state migration of students, and Virginia residents attending Virginia private colleges. Table 3 shows that both these assumptions were held constant in the series 1, 2 and 3 projections cited for Virginia institutions of higher education. The differences in the series are thus reflected in the enrollments of the state-controlled sector.

The number of Virginians going out-of-state to attend college was projected to gradually rise from the last definitely known figure of 39,313 in 1968 to 44,000 by 1982. Net out-migration by 1982, however, is estimated at 9,000, a decrease of 5,770 from the 14,770 figure of 1968. This reflects the probable effects of the further development of the Virginia Community College System and regional and/or urban universities. Thus, the attractiveness and opportunity provisions of Virginia colleges for Virginia residents is projected to increase in relative proportion to the attractiveness of out-of-state institutions.

Projections for the privately controlled institutions estimate an annual growth rate of 2 percent for in-state enrollment through 1978. This is basically consistent with recent historical data for the private sector in Virginia. Beyond 1978, the projections assume that the in-state enrollment of the private institutions will be subjected to the same factors which will cause a leveling off in enrollment in the state-controlled institutions. In 1968 the enrollment of Virginia's privately controlled institutions was comprised of 56.2 percent in-state or Virginia resident students and 43.8 percent out-of-state students. More recent data for the Fall of 1971 suggests that this pattern has not changed. It is projected that the relationship of in-state to out-of-state students will remain constant for the private institutions, and the projected enrollments for the private sector in Tables 3 and 4 reflect this. The projections of total head-count for the private sector in all three series of the projections are the same, and are generally consistent with those published by the Council for Independent Colleges in Virginia in its Fact Book on Private Higher Education in Virginia. It is important to note that the projections presented for the private institutions could be affected by the availability of state financial support to these colleges. The 1972 General Assembly approved two separate tuition assistance programs which would have provided financial aid to students attending private institutions. However, on September 1, 1972, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled provisions of these two programs unconstitutional. It is probable that additional tuition assistance programs will be proposed and their constitutionality decided, but at this time it is extremely difficult to estimate the probable effects of such assistance should it become available.

To estimate the number of out-of-state residents who will be attending state-controlled colleges and universities in Virginia, the projections in Series I assumed that by 1982 a total of 83.6 percent of the four-year college and university head-count students would be in-state students. This can be compared with the present 81 percent who are in-state students. Similarly, it was estimated that 97 percent of the two-year college students would be residents of Virginia. This is based on the assumption that the proportionate share of total enrollment for the community colleges that is in-state will remain in the future as has been the case in recent years, and that four-year colleges will have a slightly larger proportion of in-state students. Using these assumptions, the out-of-state students attending state-supported colleges were projected through 1982.

Table 4 presents full-time-equivalent enrollment projections for the state-controlled institutions. These were developed from the historical relationship of approximately 86 percent between full-time-equivalent and head-count students. In other words, full-time-equivalent enrollment was found to be approximately 86 percent of head-count enrollment. This relationship was projected to begin to fall off to a lower percentage, and by 1976 will be 80.3 percent, where it will remain through 1982. This assumption was based on the increased interest shown in higher education by the part-time student. Recent data for Fall 1971 supports this assumption and indicates that FTE enrollment was 84.2 percent of head-count enrollment as compared to 86.6 percent for Fall 1970.

Table 3 -- DISTRIBUTION OF VIRGINIA RESIDENTS IN COLLEGE, 1970-1982

Fall of Year	Series 1			
	Virginia Residents in College (Head-count Enrollment)			
	Total	Going Out-of-State	In Va. Priv. Institutions	In Va. State-Cont. Inst.
1970	148,323	40,500	15,753	92,070[a]
1971	160,830	41,000	16,094	103,736[a]
1972	176,044	41,500	16,416	118,128
1973	189,548	42,000	16,744	130,804
1974	203,616	42,500	17,079	144,037
1975	212,927	43,000	17,421	152,506
1976	222,446	43,500	17,769	161,177
1977	228,393	44,000	18,125	166,268
1978	233,726	44,500	18,487	170,739
1979	235,287	44,500	18,635	172,152
1980	234,540	44,500	18,542	171,498
1981	235,021	44,500	18,550	171,971
1982	232,782	44,000	18,350	170,432

Fall of Year	Series 2			
	Virginia Residents in College (Head-count Enrollment)			
	Total	Going Out-of-State	In Va. Priv. Institutions	In Va. State-Cont. Inst.
1970	148,323	40,500	15,753	92,070[a]
1971	160,830	41,000	16,094	103,736[a]
1972	176,044	41,500	16,416	118,128
1973	189,548	42,000	16,744	130,804
1974	203,616	42,500	17,079	144,037
1975	212,969	43,000	17,421	152,548
1976	223,942	43,500	17,769	162,673
1977	234,311	44,000	18,125	172,186
1978	242,448	44,500	18,487	179,461
1979	246,667	44,500	18,635	183,532
1980	248,660	44,500	18,542	185,618
1981	251,027	44,500	18,550	187,977
1982	250,125	44,000	18,350	187,775

Fall of Year	Goal Projections			
	Virginia Residents in College (Head-count Enrollment)			
	Total	Going Out-of-State	In Va. Priv. Institutions	In Va. State-Cont. Inst.
1970	148,323	40,500	15,753	92,070[a]
1971	160,830	41,000	16,094	103,736[a]
1972	--	--	--	--
1973	--	--	--	--
1974	--	--	--	--
1975	223,332	43,000	17,421	162,911
1976	--	--	--	--
1977	--	--	--	--
1978	--	--	--	--
1979	--	--	--	--
1980	258,776	44,500	18,542	195,734
1981	--	--	--	--
1982	264,384	44,000	18,350	202,034

[a]Actual

Table 4 -- PROJECTED ENROLLMENT FOR VIRGINIA'S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, 1970-1982

Fall of Year	Series 1							
	Private Institutions			State-Controlled Institutions				All Institutions
	In-State[a] Head-count	Out-of-State Head-count	Total Head-count	In-State[b] Head-count	Out-of-State Head-count	Total Head-count	Full-Time-Equivalent	Total Head-count
1970	15,753	12,277	28,030[c]	92,070[c]	15,497[c]	107,567[c]	93,112[c]	135,597[c]
1971	16,094	12,543	28,637[c]	103,736[c]	17,651[c]	121,387[c]	102,671[c]	150,024[c]
1972	16,416	12,794	29,210	118,128	17,808	135,936[d]	114,065[d]	165,146
1973	16,744	13,050	29,794	130,804	19,029	149,833[d]	125,264[d]	179,627
1974	17,079	13,311	30,390	144,037	20,192	164,229[d]	134,604[d]	194,619
1975	17,421	13,577	30,998	152,506	20,710	173,216	139,491	204,214
1976	17,769	13,849	31,618	161,177	21,227	182,404	146,543	214,022
1977	18,125	14,125	32,250	166,268	21,282	187,550	150,678	219,800
1978	18,487	14,408	32,895	170,739	21,328	192,067	154,307	224,962
1979	18,635	14,523	33,158	172,152	21,223	193,375	155,357	226,533
1980	18,542	14,450	32,992	171,498	20,745	192,243	154,441	225,235
1981	18,550	14,457	33,007	171,971	20,821	192,792	154,793	225,799
1982	18,350	14,301	32,651	170,432	20,635	191,067	153,408	223,718

Fall of Year	Series 2							
	Private Institutions			State-Controlled Institutions				All Institutions
	In-State[a] Head-count	Out-of-State Head-count	Total Head-count	In-State[b] Head-count	Out-of-State Head-count	Total Head-count	Full-Time Equivalent	Total Head-count
1970	15,753	12,277	28,030[c]	92,070[c]	15,497[c]	107,567[c]	93,112[c]	135,597[c]
1971	16,094	12,543	28,637[c]	103,736[c]	17,651[c]	121,387[c]	102,671[c]	150,024[c]
1972	16,416	12,794	29,210	118,128	17,808	135,936[d]	114,037	165,146
1973	16,744	13,050	29,794	130,804	19,029	149,833[d]	125,245	179,627
1974	17,079	13,311	30,390	144,037	20,192	164,229[d]	134,487	194,619
1975	17,421	13,577	30,998	152,548	20,710	173,258	139,455	204,256
1976	17,769	13,849	31,618	162,679	21,227	183,900	147,653	215,518
1977	18,125	14,125	32,250	172,186	21,282	193,468	155,335	225,718
1978	18,487	14,408	32,895	179,461	21,328	200,789	161,213	233,684
1979	18,635	14,523	33,158	183,532	21,223	204,755	164,398	237,913
1980	18,542	14,450	32,992	185,618	20,745	206,363	165,689	239,355
1981	18,550	14,457	33,007	187,977	20,821	208,798	167,644	241,805
1982	18,350	14,301	32,651	187,775	20,635	208,410	167,332	241,061

Fall of Year	Goal Projections							
	Private Institutions			State-Controlled Institutions				All Institutions
	In-State Head-count	Out-of-State Head-count	Total Head-count	In-State Head-count	Out-of-State Head-count	Total Head-count	Full-Time Equivalent	Total Head-count
1970	15,753	12,277	28,030[c]	92,070[c]	15,497[c]	107,567[c]	93,112[c]	135,597[c]
1971	16,094	12,543	28,637[c]	103,736[c]	17,651[c]	121,387[c]	102,671[c]	150,024[c]
1975	17,421	13,577	30,998	162,911	20,710	183,621	147,797	214,619
1980	18,542	14,450	32,992	195,734	20,745	216,479	173,811	249,471
1982	18,350	14,301	32,651	202,034	20,635	222,669	178,781	255,320

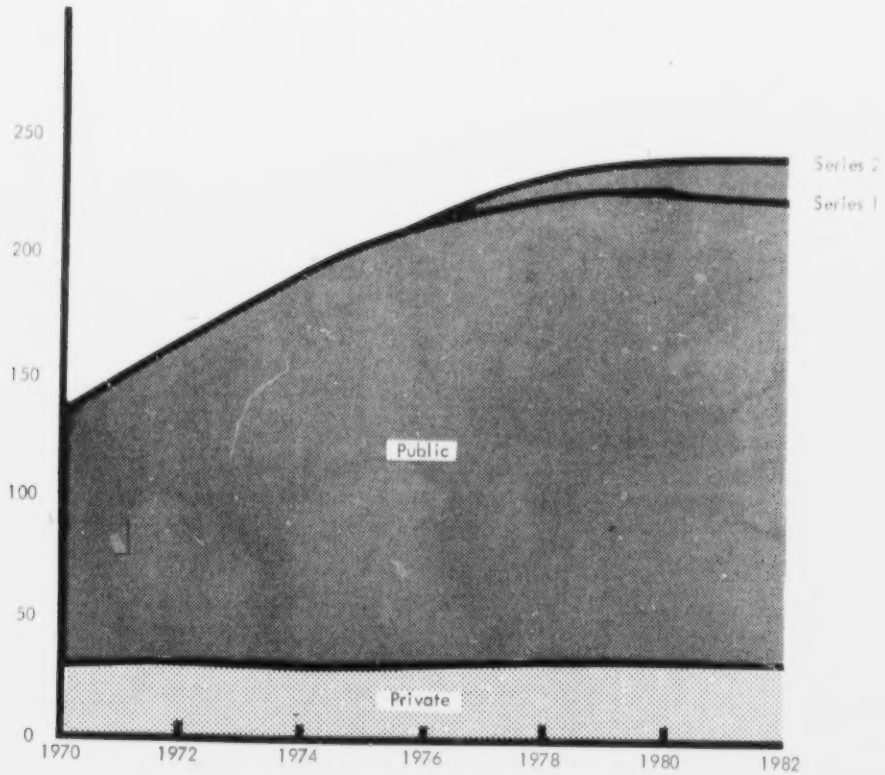
[a]These projections assume that the percentage of students that are in-state Virginia residents will be 56.2 percent, and the percentage that are out-of-state will be 43.8 percent.

[b]These projections assume that by 1980, 83.6 percent of the four-year college students and 97 percent of the two-year college students will be in-state students.

[c]Actual

[d]These are the totals of the institutions' individual projections which are slightly less than the State Council's original projections.

HEAD-COUNT ENROLLMENT IN VIRGINIA INSTITUTIONS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION



CONCLUSION

It can be seen in Table 4 that the projections for both the privately controlled institutions and the state-controlled institutions are essentially the same in Series 1 and Series 2 through 1976. It is beyond 1976 that the two series begin to diverge, and then only for the public colleges and universities. The projections for the private institutions are the same for Series 1 and Series 2 throughout the projection period. The range established by the Series 1 and Series 2 projections will be used by the State Council as statewide working projections within which to review and recommend on projections for the various segments of public higher education (two-year, four-year), and also for individual public institutions. The use of a range beyond the first five years of the projection period is appropriate since the further out in time projections are attempted, the more difficult it is to project accurately. These projections will be reviewed and updated periodically as new evidence suggests the need for change. The establishment of a range of projections within certain limits and based on differing assumptions, beyond the first five years of the projection period, still provide the necessary information for planning both operating and capital outlay funding. It is important to observe that by the 1980's the projections for the state-controlled institutions in Series 1 are between 6 and 7 percent less than those in Series 2. In comparing actual enrollments with earlier projections, the State Council's projections for the state-controlled institutions have historically been within 5 percent of the actual enrollments realized.

In summary, the projections which have been presented for Virginia's private institutions estimate an overall growth of 12 percent from 1972 to 1982, while a similar estimate for state-controlled institutions is for a growth of between 41 and 53 percent. These patterns are reflected in the Series 1 and Series 2 projections and are for head-count enrollment.

Series 1 ASSUMPTIONS

1. It was assumed that the economic conditions of the State and Nation would remain substantially unchanged.

2. It was assumed that there would be no major war or other catastrophe.

3. It was assumed that the migration patterns of college students which affect Virginia higher education would not substantially change, although some decrease in net out-migration was projected. Note: As previously noted Virginia is a debtor state in terms of Virginia residents leaving the state to attend college versus non-residents entering the state to attend college.

4. It was assumed that there would be no major changes in academic and admissions requirements.

5. It was assumed that academic programs offered by Virginia's state-controlled colleges and universities will change to reflect current emphasis and societal needs, but that these changes will not have a direct effect on enrollment projections.

6. It was assumed that retention rates from class to class would remain about the same as experienced during the past several years. Note: There has been a substantially higher dropout rate between the freshman and sophomore years at community colleges. Therefore, if this rate continues it is possible that with the dynamic expansion of enrollments in the Virginia Community College System, the number of dropouts for the state could substantially increase. In addition, if the senior colleges were to enact broader admissions policies with no substantial change in programs or academic requirements, attrition rates at those colleges might be expected to significantly increase.

7. It was assumed that the State of Virginia would not provide direct financial assistance to the private sector of Virginia higher education.

8. It was assumed that a significantly larger number of transfer students would add substantially to the junior class enrollments of the senior colleges and universities.

9. It was assumed that there would be no major changes in the attitudes of society in general, and potential students and their parents in particular, towards college attendance.

10. It was assumed that the first half of the 1970's would be a period of rapid growth in the rate of college attendance in Virginia. This is an anticipated result of the completion during that time of a community college system serving all regions of the State, and the expansion of regional universities serving the heavily populated urban corridor of Virginia. After 1975, it is assumed that the rate of increase in the college-going rate will increase, but at a decreasing rate. This reflects the major effects of these significant expansions of higher education opportunity on the college-going rate by that time.

11. It was assumed that there would be no major change in the financial aid available to students in relation to the current value of the consumer dollar.

12. It was assumed that tuition and fees would not increase or decrease markedly in relation to the current value of the consumer dollar.

13. It was assumed that Virginia would not be able to achieve national parity in the holding power of its secondary schools by the early 1980's. The achievement of such parity will be critical if Virginia is to reach parity with the national college-going rate. In comparison with a national average of 78.7 percent, Virginia public high school graduates in 1970-71 were 75.9 percent of the ninth graders in Fall 1967.

Series 2 ASSUMPTIONS

1-9. These assumptions are the same as those cited for the Series 1 projections.

10. It was assumed that the influence of the Virginia Community College System and regional universities on the college-going rate would continue to be evidenced beyond 1976 to a greater extent than was assumed in the Series 1 projections.

11. It was assumed that the Omnibus Higher Education Act of 1972, in conjunction with anticipated action by the Virginia General Assembly, would result in a major increase in financial aid available to students. Such action would serve to redirect the financial aid dollar to provide assistance based on need and ability. Such a fully funded statewide financial aid program could significantly increase the college-going rate in Virginia. It is known that the college-going rate overall has been adversely affected by a very low rate of attendance by students from low income families.

12. It was assumed that Virginia would be able to more closely approach national levels in its secondary school holding power by the early 1980's, than it did in the early 1970's.